

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C/S/NEA

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 19, 1956

SUBJECT: 1) President's Message to King Saud; 2) Meeting Between Kings Faisal and Saud; 3) Buraimi

PARTICIPANTS: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Khayyal, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
Mr. Mohamed Mahdi, Attache, Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Mr. William M. Rountree, Assistant Secretary, NEA
Mr. Stuart W. Rockwell, NE

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1) The Saudi Arabian Ambassador called at Mr. Rountree's request to receive a copy of the message from the President to King Saud cabled to Jidda on September 18. After reading the first page the Ambassador commented that it was "optimistic" and "good". He asked whether Mr. Rountree had any special comment or explanation to add. Mr. Rountree replied in the negative, saying that the message, which was fairly long, was self-explanatory.

2) Ambassador Khayyal then mentioned that he had heard on the radio that King Saud and King Faisal of Iraq were shortly to meet. Mr. Rountree said that he had heard this too and that it was a helpful development.

3) The Saudi Ambassador then inquired whether Mr. Rountree had heard anything new about Buraimi. Mr. Rountree replied in the negative, but said that he had had occasion to discuss the matter with the British while he was in London for the first Suez Conference. It had been a bad time to take up Buraimi because the British were totally occupied with Suez at that time. Ambassador Khayyal stated that no reply had been received from the UK to the Saudi memorandum of a month ago. When he learned from Mr. Rountree that he had not seen the text of the memorandum, he said that he would furnish one. He also said that the Embassy had recently received a message from the King which it had not delivered because of the Department's pre-occupation with the Suez problem. The message was to the effect that despite Suez the Department should not lose sight of the importance of the Buraimi dispute. Mr. Rountree assured the Ambassador that the Department was fully aware of this.

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